

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 were originally filed. In response to a restriction requirement mailed April 30, 2003, Applicants provisionally elected with traverse claims 20-23, and 26, and added new claims 43-53 in a response dated April 5, 2004. Claims 27-30 were withdrawn and claims 16-26 and 43-53 were rejected in the Office Action dated December 2, 2004. In this response, Applicants have added new claims 54-79. Support for the amendments to the claims is found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

For example, support for claim 54 is found at pages 19 and 24. Support for new claim 55 is found at page 8 (e.g. lines 22-27), and page 2 (e.g. lines 8-9), for example. Support for new claim 56 is found at page 10 (e.g. lines 24-25), for example. Support for new claim 57 is found at page 9 (e.g. lines 14-15), for example. Support for new claim 58 is found at page 9 (e.g. lines 17-18), for example. Support for new claim 59 is found at page 9 (e.g. lines 19-22), and SEQ ID NO:1, for example. Support for new claim 60 is found at page 9, for example. Support for new claim 61 is found at page 10 (e.g. lines 25-26), for example. Support for new claim 62, 63, and 64 is found in the sequence listings, for example. Support for new claim 65 is found at page 10, Table 1, and Table 3, for example. Support for new claim 66 is found at page 10 (e.g. lines 1-9), for example. Support for new claim 67 is found at pages 28-32, for example. Support for new claim 68 is found at pages 4-5 and 26, for example. Support for new claim 69 is found at pages 4, 5, 19, 23, and 26, for example. Support for new claim 70 is found at pages 4, 5, and 26-28, for example. Support for new claim 71 is found at page 30, for example. Support for new claim 72 is found at pages 4, 5 and 32, for example. Support for new claim 73 is found at pages 4 and 34, for example. Support for new claim 74 is found at page 4-5, for example. Support for new claim 75 is found at page 4-5, for example. Support for new claim 76 is found at page 12-

13, for example. Support for new claim 77 is found at pages 3, 5 and 20, for example. Support for new claim 78 is found at pages 3, 5 and 20, for example. Support for new claim 79 is found at pages 21 and 33, for example. No new matter is added. Entry of this response is hereby requested.

Objections

Claim 48 was objected to on the basis of a typographical error. Claim 48 has been amended to change “methodaccording” to --method according--.

The disclosure has been objected to for the two occurrences of "Table 1" in the specification. The second occurrence of Table 1 has been amended to read " Table 2 (SEQ ID NO:12)". The specification at page 10 , line 7, has also been amended in light of this typographical error.

In light of the correction of these typographical errors, Applicants respectfully request that the objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 16-26 and 43-53 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. The PTO notes in the December 2, 2004 Office Action that the Specification is enabling for methods of administration of connexin 43 antisense oligonucleotides and methods using antisense targeted to nucleic acids encoding connexin 43, and for methods of inhibiting connexin 43 for improved wound healing, inhibition of inflammation associated with wounds, neuronal cell death inhibition, *etc.* However, the Office Action, at page 7, alleges that the Specification “does not reasonably provide enablement for the full scope embraced in the instant claimed invention.”

Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. However, for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution of claims directed to connexin 43, the claims have been

amended without prejudice to specify connexin 43. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to additional subject matter, including other connexins, in one or more related applications.

All rejections under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph having been addressed, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn and the case passed to issue.

CONCLUSION

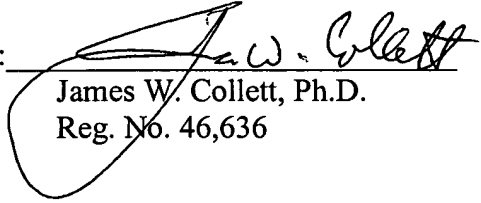
The pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and prompt notification of allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4553, as necessary under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) for this Response and for the payment of new claims.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


James W. Collett, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 46,636

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL P.C.
One Oxford Centre
301 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1410
Phone: 619.578.5000
Facsimile: 619.578.5940
Email: collettjw@bipc.com